

MR. ABSHIRE: That works. My name is Jim Abshire. And I work at the Valley Number 2 Mine. I'm a fourth generation coal miner, and I've been in the industry for over [indiscernible] years. The one question that hasn't been asked today is what happens if there is no coal? A brief history of that. The Province of Ontario shut down their coal plants, resulting in the electricity cost increasing by over 318 percent and the loss of over 300,000 jobs. Manufacturing companies either went bankrupt or left. The State of California has lost over 700,000 manufacturing jobs in recent years due to the implementation of the renewable portfolio standard. California's industrial electricity rates are 62 percent above the U.S. average. The government has spent billions of dollars, taxpayer dollars, to subsidize renewable energy. Even though their own estimates project that this will only supply 10 percent of the energy demands by the year 2040. That's three percent over today's total. That's a pretty dismal rate of return, considering 65 percent of all Federal subsidies go towards renewables. We've already talked about the dismal performance of the Ivanpah Solar Plant. They produce power at seven times the rate of what a gas power plant does today. The growth of wind energy is not the result of new technology and favorable market force. But, it's largely a response to Federal subsidies. Without Federal tax credits, private investors would have no incentive to invest in renewable projects. As Warrant Buffet so aptly stated, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them. They don't make sense without the tax credit. I personally do not have an issue with renewable energy. But, let it stand on its own two feet. There are better ways to invest my tax dollar than lining the pockets of wealthy investors at the expense of the American taxpayer. Cheap electricity is what built this great county. And it's its only hope to remain as a world power. Fossil fuel energy production has been and needs to remain at the forefront of our energy's -- energy portfolio. A lot has been spoken today about the legacy we leave our -- live --leave out children. As a father and a grandfather, I want my children's children to be able to walk up to a wall switch or a thermostat and not have to make a conscious decision whether they want light, heat, or food today. Thank you for your time.